

REMARKS

Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (US 5200576) in view of Burndy. Claims 13-14, 24 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader et al. (US 5200576) in view of Levinsky (US 3354517). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (US 5200576) in view of AOA (Applicants' Own Admission) and Levinsky (US 3354517). The examiner is requested to reconsider the rejections.

In view of the examiner's withdrawal of allowance, the features of claim 25 previously added to claim 24 has been removed from claim 24. Thus, claim 24 is now broader in at least some respects. The features of original claim 25 have been reinstated as new claim 33.

Claim 13 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. In particular, claim 13 claims that the first concave surface is located closer to the first conductor receiving channel than the second concave surface, and that the first concave surface has a larger radius of curvature than a radius of curvature of the second concave surface. Support for this amendment can be found at page 9, lines 2-3 and 23-24, for example. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited art of the features recited in claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claim 14, 31 and 32 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 13.

However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 21 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. In particular, claim 21 claims that the second section has a bottom cantilevered curved leg which forms the second contact surface, and that the radius of curvature of the second curved conductor contact surface is smaller than the radius of curvature of the first curved conductor contact surface. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited art of the features recited in claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 24 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. In particular, claim 24 claims that a second one of the concave surfaces located at a bottom of the second conductor receiving channel is smaller than a first one of the concave surfaces. The features of claim 24 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 24 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 26-30 and 33 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 24. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Applicants' invention is not merely a change in form. As noted on page 15 of the specification, the new design is capable of containing all the strands of two or more highly flexible conductors in the two tap locations. The new design has a greater conductor range. In the past, there was no

available conventional tap connector that was capable of containing two highly flexible class K conductors. Samples of the connector 24 were made and tested. The test results showed that the new design contains all the strands of a 4/0 AWG flex Class K conductor in tap channel 37 and an 8 AWG flex Class K conductor in tap channel 38.

The compression tool 2 crimps the top and bottom sections 26,28 onto the four conductors A-D at substantially a same time. Although the legs 52, 68 and 74 are deformed to close the lateral side apertures 42 at an early stage of the connector's crimping, the tips 56, 70, 76 contact the projections 50, 66 and 72. This temporarily stops or slows down further significant compression of the bottom section 28 until more significant deformation of the top section 26 occurs. The legs 34, 36 are crimped inward and downward towards the conductor A, and then the connector 24 is relatively evenly compressed onto the four conductors A-D. This prevents the connector 24 from piercing too deeply into the tap conductors B, C and D and potentially creating a bad crimp.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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12/1/03

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